

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. M-5-64

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Wilcox House/Burton Cemetery

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 3720 Bell Road    not for publication

city, town Burtonsville    vicinity of    congressional district 8

state MD county Montgomery

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dorothy and Edward Brown

street & number 3720 Bell Road

city, town Burtonsville telephone no.:    state MD zip code 20730

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse    liber 1451

street & number 51 Monroe Street    folio 85

city, town Rockville,    state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Montgomery County Locational Atlas of Historic Sites

date 1976    federal    state    ☒ county    local

pository for survey records M-NCPPC

city, town Silver Spring    state MD

## 7. Description

Survey No. 15-64

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Main House

The Wilcox House is a heavily altered two-story frame gable front and wing building with clapboard walls (covered by aluminum siding) and has a moderate pitched rolled metal roof. The two-story building has a general overall L-plan and was built as two I-house sections around 1859 and 1905. According to county equity records, the house was a four room log house as late as 1905 when a substantial frame addition was built to create a more fashionable folk Victorian house.

The principle elevation of the house faces southwest toward Bell Road and has a gable front and three-bay wing facade with symmetrical ranks of four-over-four windows on the first and second stories with green batten shutters. The first level has a simple central entry with a one story hipped roofed porch, supported by simple posts ornamented with scrollwork brackets, that infills the L on the south elevation.

The remaining facades of the house also have four-over-four sash windows placed in largely symmetrical ranks throughout the building with a few two-over-two windows added to the rear facade, and attic windows at the gable ends. Large two story and one story shed additions extend across the rear of the building. The south side of the house has a large two story latticed wooden staircase that accesses the second floor of the house since the building has been partitioned into separate living units. The house has a central internal chimney with brick corbeling and on the north side there is an exterior irregularly coursed stone chimney base and a brick stove flue.

### Burton Family Cemetery

Adjacent to the Wilcox/Beall House is a small family cemetery with 23 plots laid out in rows on a rectangular lot. Most of the stones are simple granite pylons without inscriptions and there are several footmarkers with only initials. There are two prominent headstones in the yard and these are simple double markers of white granite set on granite sills. The inscriptions on these gravestones indicate that Isaac (died 1873) and Keturah Burton (died 1877) and William (1787-1832) and Susan Burton (1783-1860) are interred here.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. M-15-64

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1859; 1905

**Builder/Architect**

Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Wilcox/Beall House, built in sections ca. 1859 and 1905, has been extensively remodeled and expanded in the recent past. The house lacks sufficient integrity to represent a distinctive type, period or method of design and construction and has minimal local architectural or historical significance. The house, a gable end and wing frame building type, was a popular dwelling usually built in the Gothic Revival or Queen Anne styles by Montgomery County's farmers in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The Burton family cemetery is intact and continues to mark the family's contribution to the founding of Burtonsville. Isaac Burton was the town's first postmaster when the small community, located at the intersection of Old Columbia Road and the road to Sandy Spring, was known as "Burton's." The cemetery neither derives significance from the graves of persons considered to be of major importance to eastern Montgomery County's history nor does it possess distinctive funerary design features or associations with important historic events.

Survey No. M-15-64

## 10. Geographical Data

**Quadrangle scale** \_\_\_\_\_

H | | | | |

**11. Form Prepared By**

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

Continuation Sheet  
M: 15-64 - Wilcox House/Burton Cemetery

Preservation Planning Data:

- a) Geographic Organization: Piedmont
- b) Chronological/Development Periods: Agricultural-Industrial  
Transition - A. D. 1815-1870, Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
- c) Historic Period Themes: Architecture
- d) Resource Type: Farmhouse

Chain of Title/Owner Information:

The first log section of the house was probably built by farmer William Wilcox ca. 1859 after he purchased the 72 acre tract, identified as parts of "Bachelor's Adventure," "Bear Bacon," and Snowden's Third Addition to his Manor," from Joseph and Catherine Soper for \$648. The Sopers had purchased the land in 1853 from the Burton family, the founders of the village of Burtonsville. William Wilcox conveyed 25 1/2 acres to Richardson Wilcox for \$306 in 1867. The remaining 46 1/2 acres with improvements including a weatherboarded four room log house, wagon shed, and spring house were sold at public auction in 1893 when William Wilcox defaulted on the mortgage. The house was purchased by Francis Thomas for \$303.25 and almost immediately resold to Catherine Duvall. At her death in 1905 the house was sold as part of the settlement of her estate to Frederick W. Kruhm for \$150. Kruhm probably made a substantial frame addition to the building in 1905 and resold the property to John B. Beall for \$400. His son John T. Beall inherited the farm at his father's death. In 1950 the current owners, Dorothy Beall Brown and her husband Edward Brown, acquired the house and approximately six acres of land from her parents John and Julia Beall.

Cited Land Records from Crawford, MHT Form (8/82).

Deed JGH 7/474	Montgomery County Land Records
Deed JGH 2/57	" " "
Deed JGH 7/667	" " "
Equity TD 14/158	Montgomery County Judgment Records
Deed JA 40/191	Montgomery County Land Records
Equity TD 25/480	Montgomery County Judgment Records
Deed 184/37	Montgomery County Land Records
Deed 1451/85	Montgomery County Land Records

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M: 15-04  
Magi No. 1602905604  
DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic William Wilcox House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 3720 Bell Rd. ☐ not for publication  
city, town Burtonsville ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5th  
state Maryland county Montgomery

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dorothy & Edward Brown

street & number 3720 Bell Rd. telephone no.:

city, town Burtonsville state and zip code Maryland, 20730

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Court House liber 1451

street & number folio 85

city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MNCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

date 1976 ☐ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Park Historian's Office

city, town Rockville state Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

M: 15-64

## CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a two-story, frame farmhouse that has been built over several times. There is at least part of an older house underneath, since there is an external stone fireplace chimney jutting from the side of the building. The rest of the house is 20th Century, with aluminum siding. There is a small cemetery in the yard.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# Significance

Survey No.

M:15-64

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>			
— prehistoric	— archeology-prehistoric	— community planning	— landscape architecture	— religion
— 1400-1499	— archeology-historic	— conservation	— law	— science
— 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	— economics	— literature	— sculpture
— 1600-1699	— architecture	— education	— military	— social/
— 1700-1799	— art	— engineering	— music	— humanitarian
— 1800-1899	— commerce	— exploration/settlement	— philosophy	— theater
— 1900-	— communications	— industry	— politics/government	— transportation
		— invention		— other (specify)

Specific dates circa 1859

Builder/Architect

Check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The William Wilcox Farmhouse is significant as an example of vernacular architecture typical to that constructed in Montgomery County from the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries. The house combines the elements of early log and later frame construction. The house is believed to have been built by William Wilcox following his land purchase date of February 1, 1859. Originally the Wilcox house rested on 72 acres, parts of land tracts referred to as "Bachelor's Adventure", "Bear Bacon" and "Snowden's Third Addition to His Manor." The property was conveyed to Wilcox by Joseph and Catherine Soper for \$648.<sup>1</sup> The Sopers had purchased the land in January of 1853 from the Burton family, the founders of the town in which the site is located (Burtonsville).<sup>2</sup>

In December of 1867, William Wilcox conveyed 25 1/2 acres of his total 72 acres to Richardson Wilcox for \$306.<sup>3</sup> The house and remaining 46 1/2 acres, improved by a four room log house, weather-boarded, a small barn, stable, corn house, wagon shed and spring house were sold at a public auction in 1893. This occurred after William defaulted on his mortgage to Samuel Thomas. Maurice Talbott, the appointed trustee, sold the Wilcox farm to Francis Thomas for \$302.25.<sup>4</sup>

In September of 1893, Thomas sold the "Wilcox Farm" to Catherine Duvall.<sup>5</sup> Then in January of 1905 Catherine died. Since there were too many heirs to divide up the property in a manner that would have been advantageous to all, Frank Higgins was appointed trustee to sell the farm. The highest bidder, Frederick W. Kruhm, purchased the 46 1/2 acre farm, still improved by the four room log house and numerous outbuildings, for \$150.<sup>6</sup>

see attachment sheet A



Attachment Sheet A  
William Wilcox Farmhouse

Kruhm held on to the farm for less than one year, selling it in September of 1905 to John B. Beall for \$400.<sup>7</sup> A substantial frame addition was made to the original log structure about 1905. Upon his death, Beall passed the house and the 46 1/2 acres on which it sat to his son, also named John Beall. Then in October of 1950, John and his wife Julia conveyed the house to their daughter Dorothy and her husband Edward Brown, the present owners.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Deed JGH 7/474, Mont. Co. Land Records.

<sup>2</sup>Deed JGH 2/57, " "

<sup>3</sup>Deed JGH 7/667, " "

<sup>4</sup>Equity TD 14/158, Mont. Co. Judgement Records.

<sup>5</sup>Deed JA 40/191, Montgomery County Land Records.

<sup>6</sup>Equity TD 25/480, Mont. Co. Judgement Records.

<sup>7</sup>Deed 184/37, Mont. Co, Land Records.

<sup>8</sup>from conversation with Dorothy Brown, 7/82.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M-5-6

Montgomery Count Land Records  
Montgomery County Judgement Records  
conversation with Dorothy Brown, present owner

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5.88 acres

Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catherine Crawford

organization Mont. Co. Hist. Preservation Comm. date 8/82

street &amp; number

telephone

city or town

state

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

William Willcox House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Bell Road off Rte. 29

CITY, TOWN

Burtonsville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Liber #:

Folio #:

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

M:15-64

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a two-story, frame farmhouse that has been built over several times. There is at least part of an older house underneath, since there is an external stone fireplace chimney jutting from the side of the building. The rest of the house is 20th Century, with aluminum siding. There is a small cemetery in the yard.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:15-64

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

May have belonged to the Willcox family in the late 19th Century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION****LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

1973

STREET &amp; NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

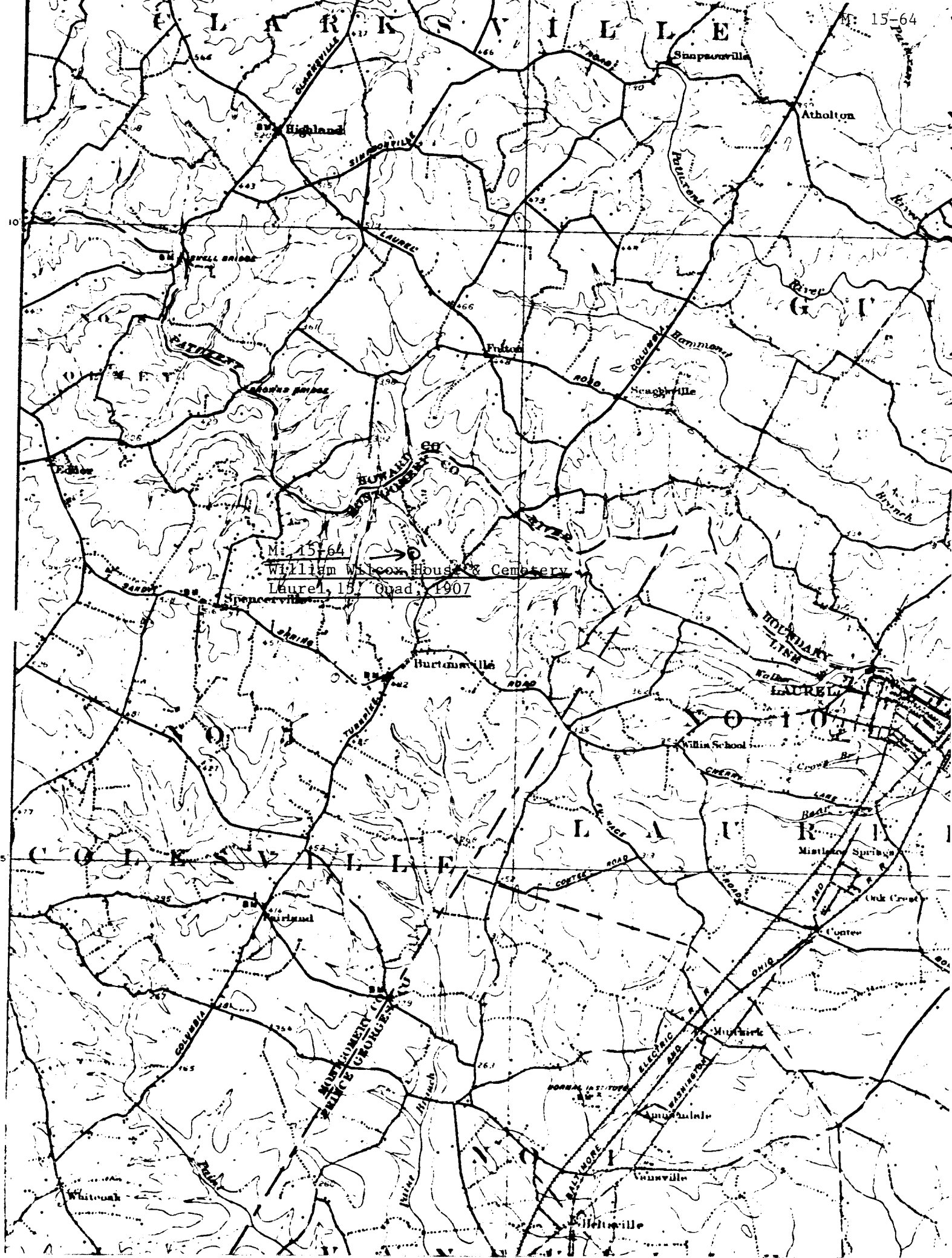
STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



M: 15-64  
William Wilson House & Cemetery  
Laurel, 15 Quad, 1907

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
(Clarksville)

ATHOLTON 5.1 mi.

55'

M: 15-64

PATUXENT

57'30"

Calvary Ch

M: 15-64  
William Wilcox House & Cemetery  
Beltsville Road, 1951

BURTONSVILLE  
FIRE TOWER

Burtonsville

UNION  
CEM

COLUMBIA

SANDY

SPRING

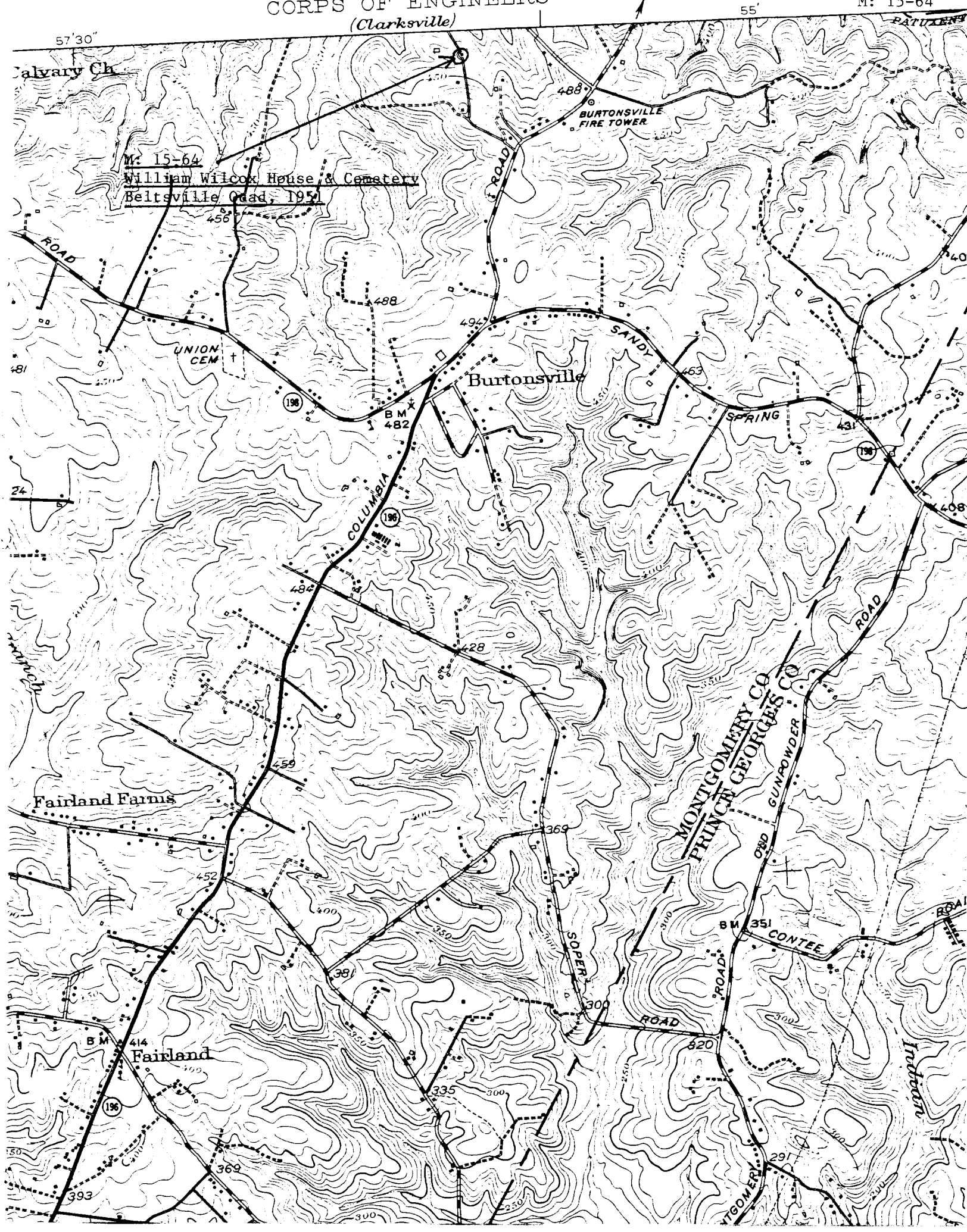
Fairland Farms

Fairland

MONTGOMERY CO  
PRINCE GEORGES CO

CONTEE

Indian







NAME #15-64 WILLIAM WILCOX HOUSE M: 15-64  
LOCATION BEL RD. OFF RTE. 29, BURTONSVILLE, MD.  
FACADE W  
PHOTO TAKEN 1973 M. DWYER